

# Forestry and Natural Resources



Forests and woodlands encompass over 65% of Placer County and 85% of Nevada County. To ensure the persistence of our ecosystems and their residents, UCCE works with private forest landowners, professional forest practitioners, local agencies, and rural householders to tackle major issues of concern.

In 2022-23, our extension activities focused on targeted forest stewardship, pile burning and GIS trainings for landowners and resource professionals. We also continued to expand our career mentorship program, bringing collegiate forestry students and local professionals together. Working collaboratively with CalFire, USFS, and American Forests, we also developed and piloted a new cone survey tool to help locate cone masting activity and replenish our depleted seed banks. Finally, we expanded

the Forestry Institute for Teachers program with new staffing and a new FIT -Focus session, delivering three-day intensive trainings to teachers on specific forestry topics.

To support changing markets and a growing demand for small diameter fuels reduction, we have collaborated with local fire-safe councils and colleagues to research the potential for grazing in forested environments. This multi-year study successfully completed the first of two treatments this year and will improve understanding of costs and benefits associated with grazing in wildland-urban interface environments. We are also part of a statewide network of advisors and specialists evaluating new silvicultural approaches to ensure the continued survival of our forests and the services they provide.



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## Program Highlights 2022-23:

- Forest GIS Training on ArcGIS Pro with Sierra College.
- Pile Burning Trainings with Local Fire Safe Councils.
- Development of Statewide Cone Survey Tool <https://arcg.is/1jPuT80>.
- Introducing new Forestry Institute for Teachers session in El Dorado County, and piloting New FIT-Focus session on forest disturbances ([forestryinstitute.org](http://forestryinstitute.org)).
- Continued delivery of Project Learning Tree (<http://ucanr.edu/plt>).



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